

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02170 161607Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8686
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2170

EXDIS - DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG SF WA ZA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: APPROACH TO FRZ ON CAPRIVI STRIP SITUATION

REF: STATE 153144

1. IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE (TIED UP AT UNIP NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING), CHARGE MADE POINTS IN REFTEL TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ZIMBA. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY ALERT TO THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS BY SWAPO AT THIS STAGE WHEN NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR ONCE AGAIN TO BE ON TRACK. HE SAID HE WAS SURE HIS MINISTER WOULD SHARE OUR CONCERNS AND WOULD TRY TO BE HELPFUL. ZIMBA THEN ADDED THAT IN DEALING WITH SWAPO ONE COULD NEVER BE CERTAIN THAT POINTS MADE REALLY PENETRATED.

2. CHARGE MENTIONED TO ZIMBA THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD TOLD THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING THAT ZAMBIA HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM THE "COMMANDER OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY." MESSAGE HAD INFORMED GRZ THAT ZAMBIANS WOULD NOT BE THE TARGET OF ANY SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION IF SUCH AN ACTION SHOULD
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TAKE PLACE. SWAPO ALONE WOULD BE THE OBJECTIVE. MESSAGE WENT ON, ACCORDING TO KAUNDA, TO SAY THAT ZAMBIA COULD ESCAPE ALTOGETHER BY BARRING SWAPO ACTIVITY FROM ITS TERRITORY. KAUNDA DESCRIBED THIS MESSAGE AS "CHEEKY" AND UNACCEPTABLE. HE ADDED THAT ALL ZAMBIANS SHOULD STRIVE FOR THE DAY WHEN THE "CHEEKY BOERS" WERE DRIVEN BACK TO CAPE TOWN.

3. ZIMBA WAS UNAWARE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MESSAGE. HE COMMENTED THAT NO ATTACK ON ZAMBIAN SOIL EVEN IF IT WERE LIMITED SOLELY TO SWAPO CAMPS COULD BE JUSTIFIED. PERHAPS UNGUARDEDLY, HE ADDED THAT AN ATTACK PROVOKED BY A SWAPO INCURSION WOULD BE COMPREHENSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT THE ZAMBIANS ARE TAKING SERIOUSLY THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN RAID AND BELIEVE THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO TAKE STEPS TO TRY TO HEAD OFF SWAPO MOVES WHICH COULD TRIGGER SUCH AN ATTACK. WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN DOING SO IF SWAPO IS DETERMINED TO TRY SOMETHING.

CLINGERMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO USDEL SECRETARY.

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